26th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

Statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during interactive dialogue with Chair EMRTD and SR RTD

(Geneva, 15 May 2025)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan welcomes the Chair of the EMRTD and the SR on the Right to Development and thanks them for their presentations.

We take the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Durant on her chairmanship of the mechanism

As a consistent supporter of your respective mandates, Pakistan welcomes your work to mainstream right to development perspectives, expand the thematic frontiers of the conversation and contribute to relevant multilateral efforts.

The proceedings of the 26th session of the WG has been enriched by constructive discussion on themes that are sometimes euphemistically described as having "divergent views".

Pakistan sees the right to development as a master key that can help our collective search for solutions to cross-cutting issues, including many of those highlighted by the distinguished experts.

Maintaining the attention on the right to development is not only a human rights imperative, but also integral to the cherished principles of universality, indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights enshrined in the VDPA.

We hope that the early adoption of the draft Covenant would further consolidate these principles and help mobilise the political impetus and resources essential for realising the right to development alongside all human rights.

We would welcome the panellists' views on gaps in access to emerging technologies and how a right to development perspective could help bridge divides as well as challenges such as algorithmic bias – and the inherent potential for baked-in discrimination – as well as the digital divide between men and women.

Thank you.

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